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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

VOLUME 9 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, APRIL, 1927 NUMBER 4

APRIL MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 14th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, 2nd Floor, Room 19.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. David O'Brien of the White Wing Aviaries, San Francisco. Mr. O'Brien's subject is "The Agriculturist as a Factor in Bird Conservation."

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APRIL FIELD TRIP will be taken Sunday, April 24th, Lake Merced. At the October meeting Mr. Carrigar told the members of interesting nests found in this locality and it is to be sincerely hoped that those making the trip will be successful in locating nests. East Bay members should take ferry boats reaching San Francisco about 8:40 a. m. and go thence by Mission Street car, Line No. 12 with Ocean sign. San Francisco members may take Ingleside car and transfer to Mission car at Nineteenth Ave. Leave car at Fort Funston entrance on the Boulevard, near Forty-first Ave., where the party will form at 9.30 a. m.

The trip extends all the way aronnd the lake, reaching the cars again at Daly City, but individuals so desiring, may curtail it by returning at any time to Sloat Boulevard. Bring lunch and filled canteens.

KINDLY NOTE DATE OF OUTING. ON ACCOUNT OF THE REGULAR SUNDAY BEING EASTER THE DATE WAS SET ONE WEEK LATER.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE MARCH MEETING: The one hundred-twentieth regular meeting of the Association was held on March 10th, in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, with Dr. Frederick W. D'Evelyn, President, in the chair; Mrs. Carl Smith, Secretary. Thirty members and friends present.

Our Honorary President, Mr. Joseph Hunter, of the California Fish and Game Commission, told us many interesting facts about the game laws.

There are one hundred-twenty bills relating to fish and game pending at the Legislature. The volume alone shows how alert the Commission must be to see that only constructive measures become laws. The yellow billed magpie was to be placed on the unprotected list. The bird, however, escaped this fate when it was pointed out that it was an exclusive California species, and the black billed was substituted. As this species occurs principally on the east side of the Sierras it is fairly safe.

The work of the Commission falls under two main heads. Education, under the direction of Dr. Harold C. Bryant, and Law Enforcement, under direction of Mr. Hunter.

In referring to the duck situation in relation to the rice grower Mr. Hunter stated that it was not the grower that did the complaining but a few hunters who wanted an excuse for slaughtering ducks without regard to the law. Ducks seldom knock down rice but feed on fallen rice.

Two years ago protection was taken from the pelican but fortunately the fisherman who is responsible for the law seldom carries a gun.

Quail under the present regulations are increasing so that in a few years a little longer open season may be considered.

The band-tailed pigeon does do some damage to cherry orchards. A few ranchers have asked for a short open season but as this is the slowest breeding of all game birds it does not seem advisable to grant the request at this time.

Mr. Hunter then exhibited nets used by foreigners in trapping song birds. These nets are stretched across a canyon and then the birds driven into them. A very interesting cane gun was also shown.

The Association should keep in close touch with the Commission so that it can co-operate in legislative measures as well as be instrumental in the educational work.

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AUDUBON ASSOCIATION TENTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Before passing the tenth milestone of the Association's existence it seems fitting to pause and review its activities.

Through the talks given at the monthly meetings, interest in birds and their problems has been aroused. The monthly field trips have given many people an opportunity to acquaint themselves with birds in their natural surroundings. Through publication of the GULL a record has been kept over a period of years of the birds occurring in certain localities. These lists are valuable in checking bird population, as well as dates of occurrence for the various species. Many of the articles appearing in the GULL have been both entertaining and instructive. It has also kept its members informed on bird legislation.

The Association has always co-operated in movements for conservation. Its late President, Mr. A. S. Kibbe, did splendid work in trying to help the passage of the Migratory Game Refuge Bill. As Congress failed to pass this bill there is still much work ahead to bring about the desired result.

One outstanding example of the constructive work of the Association is the way in which it approached the oil companies in regard to the pollution of the waterways. It succeeded in interesting other scientific organizations in the matter and together they achieved the desired results. In the January, 1927, Standard Oil Bulletin appears an article entitled "Our Anti-Pollution Activities," which shows in detail how that company guards against water pollution in every step of its activity. All the oil companies now have special shore tanks at the loading terminals into which to discharge the residue from the cargo tanks. Formerly this was discharged into the bay and along the shore, destroying many of the water birds whose plumage became covered with oil.

The tenth anniversary dinner is a gratifying way in which to celebrate the Association's birthday. It will be an opportunity for bird lovers to get together. It is expected that all members will be present and that they will ask their friends to come so that these may become better acquainted with the aims of the Association. Everyone should help to make this a memorable occasion. Mr. Joseph Dixon of the University of California will be the main speaker, having for his subject "The Surf Bird." Slides will be shown. It will be remembered that it was Mr. George Wright, member of the Association accompanying Mr. Dixon on the Alaska trip who was the first white man to see the nest and eggs of this elusive bird.

There will also be some three-minute talks by Dr. Joseph Grinnell, Dr. Harold C. Bryant, Dr. B. W. Evermann, Messrs. Tracy I. Storer, J. S. Hunter, Harry S. Swarth, Joseph Mailliard and H. W. Carrigar.

The dinner will be held Saturday evening, April 23rd, at the Woman's City Club, 465 Post St., San Francisco. There will be a social half-hour from 5:30 to 6:00 o'clock, dinner to be served at six.

The financial arrangements are in the hands of Mrs. A. S. Kibbe, 1534 Grove St., Berkeley. The charge is two dollars per plate. Check should accompany reservations and the same should reach Mrs. Kibbe not later than April nineteenth.

Bird students will be glad to know that the Directory to the Bird Life of the San Francisco Bay Region, by Joseph Grinnell and Margaret W. Wythe, is off the press. It contains 160 pages, one map and colored frontispiece, price four dollars, for sale by W. Lee Chambers, Eagle Rock, Los Angeles Co., Cal. The authors have assembled in this volume the observations of many bird students, giving season when the bird is found in a locality, as well as specific dates and places. It also gives references to literature covering the various items.

Of particular interest and satisfaction to the members of the Association is the fact that the bird lists published in the GULL were used in many instances. This emphasizes more plainly than anything else could that the utmost caution must be exercised in compiling lists while out on the field trips, so that they will continue to be valuable material for future check lists.

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SHORE BIRDS

After the winter's lull, it is a pleasure to go to the shore at the eastern end of Alameda and find that there are more birds feeding on the mud flats than have been seen for several seasons. On March 30th there were thousands of sandpipers, western predominating. There were red backed, some showing black bellies and fairly bright color. Black bellied plovers patrolled the shore and some of these were approaching summer plumage. Hudsonian curlew, western willets and a few dozen long billed dowitchers were like accent marks among the smaller birds. On Bay Farm Island there were many smaller groups of sandpipers with a few curlew and black bellied plover.

Off shore scaup, canvas backed and surf scoter ducks were in evidence. Bonaparte gulls with black heads and Forster terns were quite plentiful.

On March 31st during a storm I again visited the shore and found birds numerous. It will be interesting to see whether or not birds will again frequent these mud flats as they did some years ago.

JUNEA W. (MRS. G. EARLE) KELLY.

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The March field trip to Point Bonita, planned for Sunday the thirteenth, was abandoned because of inclement weather. Several of the members, however, having arrived at Sausalito, decided to take a short walk in the immediate vicinity.

We followed the usual route along the water front and through the town, then turned aside to explore an inviting road which led up an oak- and brush-covered hillside. At one-thirty we boarded the ferry, much pleased with ourselves for having braved the elements to bag our thirty-three species, an average number for a half-day's trip.

From our elevated trail we saw an unusually large raft of cormorants (two hundred or more) on the bay just below. While we watched, several smaller flocks, flying in a "V" or in a long line, joined the main company.

Birds encountered were: western grebe, glaucous-winged, western, and California gulls; Farallone cormorant, scaup, surf scoter, ruddy duck, sparrowhawk, red-shafted flicker; Anna and Allen humming birds; California jay, western crow, western meadowlark; linnet, English, Nuttall, golden-crowned, and song sparrows; Sierra junco, California brown and San Francisco towhees; lutescent and Audubon warblers; vigors wren, Marin chickadee, bush and wren-tits; ruby and golden-crowned kinglets; dwarf hermit and varied thrushes. Total, thirty-three species.

Members in attendance were: Misses Kraft, Carnahan, Futhey, Crum; Mr. and Mrs. Myer. Guests: Miss Howden, Mrs. Bracelin, Mr. Ledwith.

E. CRUM.

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MARCH FIELD TRIP

The March field trip was taken on Sunday, March 27th, to Point Bonita and Rodeo Lagoon, going by way of the scenic bay trail, and returning via the old Jolly's ranch road to the heights of Sausalito. The day opened cloudy, and with a trace of rain at times; but by the time the crowd arrived at Sausalito the sun gave evidences of appearing soon, and later came out to stay.

In the crossing from San Francisco to Sausalito few birds were encountered. A fine view of the California brown pelican flying low across the water was had, with his occasional heavy dive into the bay after food. He would hit the water like a rock, dropping completely out of sight. Another interesting sight was the large group of cormorants feeding, evidently on a school of sardines, just off the shore near Sausalito. There seemed to be a couple of thousand, with small groups being added from time to time. Several in the crowd were treated to their first view of the western raven. Twice they were sighted, the first time by a member and several guests, and later, as the party was approaching the fortifications above Fort Barry, their croaking note heard distinctly by one of the party.

Lunch was eaten on the north beach at Point Bonita, after which the party spent an enjoyable time down at the lighthouse high on the rocks above the water. From here, most of the party *entrained* by automobile for Sausalito, while the remaining seven members returned via the Lagoon, and thence through the old Jolly ranch to Sausalito. It was a day to be remembered by everyone, and quite a few of the party added a new bird or two to their life list.

Birds encountered were: Western grebe, Pacific loon; California murre, glaucous winged, western and California gulls; California brown pelican; Farallon, Brandt and Baird cormorants; surf scoter, coot, California quail, turkey vulture, sharp shinned, Cooper's and red tailed hawk; red shafted flicker, Allen hummer, black phoebe, horned lark; California jay, western raven, western crow, bi-colored red-wing, meadow lark, Brewer's blackbird, California purple finch, linnet, green-backed and willow goldfinch, western savannah, Nuttall's and golden crowned sparrow, junco, song sparrow, rufus crowned sparrow, San Francisco towhee, swallow, lutescent, Audobon's and pileolated warbler, pipit, Vigor's wren, titmouse, chickadee, bushtit, golden crowned and ruby crowned kinglets, wrentit, hermit thrush, western robin, western blue bird—53 species.

Members in attendance were: Mesdemoiselles Ayer, Olive Burroughs, Ethel Crum, Cokefair, Richards, Schultz; Mesdames Futhey, Kibbe, Meyer, Parry; Messrs. Bryant, Cliff, Card, Lastreto, Meyer, Parry, Smith, Bunker. As guests: Mesdemoiselles Kneif, Plummer; Mesdames Boland, Bracelin, Bunker, Stephens; Messrs. W. E. Boland, Barry and Bruce Boland, Wm. H. Gorrill, Sterling Gorrill, Jacobs, Leddwith, Peterson, Stephens. Eighteen members and fifteen guests.

PAUL F. BUNKER.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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Meets second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners. Ferry Building Second Floor, Room 19.

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Subscription to Bulletin alone, 35c per year. Membership dues, payable January 1, $3.00 per year.